

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín (Chair)
Senate Standing Committee on Public Safety
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 6- Ashby: Controlled substances: xylazine
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Arreguín,

The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), representing over 6,500 veterinary medical professionals in the state, has taken a “support” position on SB 6 by Senator Ashby. The bill, among other things, seeks to curtail the illicit use of xylazine, while creating guardrails for the drug’s continued use in veterinary medicine practice.

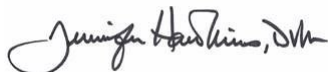
The CVMA is grateful to Senator Ashby for her focused legislative efforts regarding xylazine use; and our association has been appreciative of the many conversations we have had with her staff for the last few months, as the measure was crafted.

Xylazine’s importance in veterinary medicine cannot be understated as it is easily one of the top 10 most critical medications in livestock, equine, and wildlife veterinary medicine, providing sedation and pain control to animals. The drug is also used by animal control officers in order to subdue wild animals and to provide veterinary care to exotic animals in zoos in California.

According to the Veterinary Medical Board, there is no evidence of diversion of xylazine from veterinarians in California. Rather the drug is reportedly being trafficked in from Australia and China and is making its way into the hands of drug dealers for wholly illicit purposes. SB 1502 places guardrails around the continued application of the drug in the veterinary medicine space, while creating a blanket prohibition on its use for non-veterinary medicine purposes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hawkins, DVM
CVMA President

cc: Senator Angelique Ashby
Senate Public Safety Committee Consultants
Senate Republican Caucus
Christina DiCaro, CVMA lobbyist, KP Public Affairs